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JUNO WHO PLAYS PIANO BEAUTIFULLY?

18-YEAR OLD MUSICIAN TO SHOW HIS CHOPS WITH CHOPIN THIS THURSDAY **PAGE 17**



PERFECT, YOU SAY?

The Halifax Mooseheads celebrate after recording a 5-3 win over the host Gatineau Olympiques on Wednesday night, which clinched the best-of-seven quarter-final series in four straight games. Halifax is now a perfect 8-0 in the playoffs as it goes into the third round, which starts next weekend.

Story, page 33. DEVAAN INGRAHAM/FOR METRO

'For the love of God do something'

Rehtaeh Parsons.

Father issues online excoriation of school officials, justice system for daughter's death

An anguished cri de coeur from a grieving father demands justice for the teen daughter he says was "disappointed to death."

In a blistering, moving blog post, Glen Canning honours 17-year-old Rehtaeh Parsons' compassion and courage and then lays blame for her suicide following an alleged gang rape and bullying by schoolmates.

"My daughter wasn't bullied to death, she was disappointed to death," writes Canning under the heading "To the Justice Minister of Nova Scotia."

"Disappointed in people she thought she could trust, her

Quoted

"Why is it they didn't just think they would get away with it — they knew they would get away with it?"

Glen Canning, father of Rehtaeh Parsons

school, and the police."

Rehtaeh took her own life last week after two years of relentless persecution, sparked by the distribution of a photo taken during the alleged rape.

Canning's blog post lambastes police and school officials for not prosecuting the alleged rapists or containing the bullies.

"Why was this treated like a minor incident of bullying rather than a rape?" he writes. "Numerous people were emailed that photo. The police

have that information (or at least they told us they did)."

The story has caught the attention of the hacker group Anonymous, which claims to have identified at least two of the alleged assailants. A release directed at Justice Minister Ross Landry says the names will be protected "until it is apparent you have no intention of providing justice to Rehtaeh's family."

Rehtaeh's mother, Leah, said she doesn't want anyone taking vigilante action against the teens. "I just think some people need to realize what their actions are on other people," she said.

The RCMP in Halifax later issued a warning saying any vigilante action wouldn't be tolerated.

Landry has said he's asked senior officials to "provide options" for a review of Rehtaeh's case. **RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO**



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Review response to Rehtaeh Parsons case: Jennex to board

Bullied teen.

Spokesman says officials at Cole Harbour High knew of photos



RUTH DAVENPORT
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Rehtaeh Parsons FACEBOOK

The provincial education minister has asked the Halifax Regional School Board to review its handling of the case of a Cole Harbour teen who was allegedly raped and then bullied into taking her own life.

Rehtaeh Parsons, 17, died in hospital on Sunday, several days after hanging herself. Her

family says she was relentlessly persecuted by friends and schoolmates after being raped by four boys — and photographed during the crime.

The photo was then spread around her school, and although police investigated, no charges were laid.

“As you know, I know

Missed opportunity?

- Liberal education critic Karen Casey said she tried to amend the province's anti-bullying legislation with a technology-related provision about 18 months ago.

- “So there's been two years gone by when there could have been the dialogue that the premier is now talking about,” she said.

there's nothing worse that can happen in a family,” a visibly emotional Ramona Jennex said

on Wednesday. “We're going to be seeing what we can do to make sure that this situation hopefully never happens again, and we're going to do everything that we can within the department to respond.”

An HRSB spokesperson said Wednesday that officials at Cole Harbour District High were notified by police of the photos but never saw them.

HRSB superintendent Judy White said she'll be directly involved in the wide-ranging review. “We'll have a look at what are the kinds of things we ... tried to do to support her and to look at where the gaps might be and can we learn anything from that situation,” she said.

Premier Darrell Dexter said

earlier in the day that a “comprehensive review” is needed to find out what, if anything, could have been done to prevent Rehtaeh's death.

“It is so extraordinarily, deeply disturbing,” he said. “I'm horrified by the idea that there could be a dismissal of things like the transmission of photographs that depict a crime.”

Dexter suggested discussions may be needed with the federal government to add new technology-related crimes to the Criminal Code.

“I think we all acknowledge that technology has taken over in a way that many of us could not have anticipated even five years ago, never mind 10 years ago,” he said.

Mental health. Resources available for those who need help: Province

With all of the public outrage over Rehtaeh Parsons' death, health officials are reminding people of the resources available to anyone who needs help, or just someone to talk to.

“When we have a tragic case like this, it's really important to remember that there are other sources of advice, for anybody who's feeling down or low,” said Dr. Frank Atherton, Nova Scotia's deputy chief medical officer of health.

He said anyone who has suicidal thoughts, or knows someone who may have them, can call 911 or 811, the mental-health crisis line. People can also receive mental-health support through emergency rooms or family doctors.

Vigil for Rehtaeh

- A community vigil to remember Rehtaeh Parsons will take place at Victoria Park on Thursday at 7 p.m.

The Kids Help Phone can be reached through 1-800-668-6868 or the Mobile Crisis Team at 429-8167.

“Children will become alert to these kinds of issues, so for any parents, remind their kids that they can talk to them, or they can talk to independent health professionals if they feel the need,” Atherton said.

HALEY RYAN/METRO



Leah Parsons, Rehtaeh's mother, speaks about her daughter's death at her Cole Harbour home on Tuesday. A community vigil for Rehtaeh will take place on Thursday night at Victoria Park. JEFF HARPER/METRO

1 NEWS

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Open government. Municipal data free on new HRM site

There is now a new way to access data on municipal information like garbage collection, parks, trails, crime and bus stops.

And, the best part, it's free. The Open Data Catalogue, an online tool that displays 17 data sets in map format, was launched Wednesday by the municipality.

"It's a very exciting initiative, I think, in terms of opening up government and making us more accountable to people and more transparent," said Mayor Mike Savage.

The maps can be manipulated by the viewer and the data can be taken for free from the site and put to other uses.

Before this website, Tiffany Chase, a spokesperson for HRM, said there was a \$500 to \$2,000 fee for accessing a data set, plus a \$55 hourly fee to prepare and distribute the information. These fees still apply to data not available online.

"There's no reason that it shouldn't be available to people so they can better plan their lives, plan their busi-

ness, plan their organizational activities," said Savage.

In July, HRM will launch a six-month contest where participants submit applications — or ideas for applications — using the data.

Details of the contest will be released at a later date.

"We do hope to see some creative use of the information as part of the contest. And then hopefully it'll help enhance our existing services," said Chase.

Developing and hosting the catalogue cost the city \$25,000 plus HRM staff resources.

The information will be updated on a weekly basis. Other data sets won't be added until next year once the program has been evaluated and recommendations brought to Halifax regional council.

To view the data, visit halifaxopendata.ca.

EMILY KITIGAWA/FOR METRO



Mike Savage METRO

Hospital upgrade. N.S. commits \$500K to help municipality finish project

The Nova Scotia government says it will cover the municipal portion of bills associated with renovating the Queens General Hospital in Liverpool.

The Rural Development Department issued a statement saying the government is stepping in because the Region of Queens Municipality needs financial help after the closure of the Bowater paper mill.

The province says it will pay an additional \$500,000 toward the project, bringing the province's total contribu-

Municipality's contribution

- Mayor Christopher Clarke says the municipality committed \$1 million to the project before the mill closed.

tion to \$3 million.

Vicki Conrad, member of the legislature for Queens, says the municipality has experienced a sudden loss of tax revenue, making it harder to fund capital projects. METRO

Thief flees with cash

Dartmouth gas station robbed at knifepoint

Police in Halifax are looking for a man who robbed an Ultramar in Dartmouth early Wednesday morning.

A man entered the Ultramar at 219 Pleasant St. at

1:50 a.m. and produced a knife. Police say he then fled with an unknown amount of money.

Officers searched the area but couldn't locate the man, who police describe as about 45 and with a lazy eye.

He was said to be wearing a grey ball jacket and black baseball cap.

The clerk at the Ultramar wasn't injured. METRO



A motorcycle is parked on the Halifax waterfront on Wednesday afternoon. EMILY KITIGAWA/FOR METRO

No more bike parking on Chebucto Landing

Halifax waterfront.

HRM says too many bikers dropping by

Quoted

"There were far more motorcyclists parked there, and it became clear that the regulations as they were posted were not being adhered to."

Tiffany Chase, HRM spokeswoman

EMILY KITIGAWA
halifax@metronews.ca

The Halifax Regional Municipality has announced that designated motorcycle parking at Chebucto Landing on Thursday nights is no longer permitted.

HRM announced on Wednesday that because of the large number of motorcyclists parking there at night, the municipality and Halifax Regional Police can't guaran-

tee "reasonable and safe access for emergency vehicles, ferry passengers, and service and delivery vehicles," a release stated.

The parking regulation signage at Chebucto Landing has been changed. It now allows only short-term and loading-area parking for pickup and delivery.

Tiffany Chase, a spokeswoman with HRM, said on

Wednesday motorcyclists were taking up more space than allowed at the turning circle at Chebucto Landing.

She said the municipality had been working with motorcyclists in a public-education approach meant to both accommodate them and emphasize that it's a "public space for everyone's use."

"It was unfortunate that we were not able to reach

an agreement with all of the motorcyclists that they are only to take up 40 per cent of that circle and they were also gathering on other nights of the week as well," she said.

Jeff Conrad, a local motorcyclist who said he hangs out at the spot every day, didn't know about the ban until he noticed the signs were missing Wednesday afternoon.

"It's awful," he said.

According to Conrad, 200 bikers park there on Thursday evenings as a social gathering.

He said now they're going to have to find a new place to meet.

"I don't know why they're doing away with it," he said. "We aren't doing any harm."

Halifax doctor facing charges in medical-marijuana investigation

A doctor has been arrested again in connection with an 11-month medical-marijuana investigation.

And this time he's facing charges.

The RCMP say Dinesh Sinha, 68, was arrested Tuesday and charged with forgery, uttering a forged document and fraud. He has

been released from custody pending a court date on June 12.

Back in December, police arrested 29 people in the drug-trafficking case, including Sinha.

Sinha wasn't charged, but police did allege a doctor, who they wouldn't identify, was selling prescrip-

tions to grow and possess marijuana.

Bruce Thorne, a spokesman for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia, says the college is aware of the criminal charges against Sinha but he remains licensed to practise. METRO WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Seized

- In its investigation, police say they seized 20 kilograms of marijuana, about 2,200 marijuana plants, growing equipment and more than \$100,000.



Joseph Howe Elementary in Halifax, as pictured last month. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Halifax Regional School Board halts review process

Education. Closures set for 2014 must still go through: Board



HALEY RYAN
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The Halifax Regional School Board has voted to halt the school review process, but members say there's no way they can reverse school clos-

ures set for 2014 as the province's minister of education recommended.

On Wednesday night, the board voted unanimously to discontinue the review process until another can be made, which takes the heat off Joseph Howe School in Halifax and Atlantic Memorial-Terence Bay Elementary.

"It isn't hanging over their head. It's a frightening process, and that part of it's gone for now," board mem-

ber Christy Linders said.

Linders moved to simply stop the current process with these schools, saying it wouldn't be fair to have them automatically come under a new review a year from now.

Education Minister Ramona Jennex also requested that the boards delay any school closures decided upon in 2012-13, but HRSB members were told by their legal department on Wednesday it

Construction, please

Both Gin Yee, chair of the school board, and Christy Linders said they would like to see an emphasis on construction in the future review process.

was impossible.

"If you look at the education act, once the decision to

close a school is made, it is a final decision," Linders said.

Dave Wright, board member for Sackville, said the community is "a little confused" because last March it was decided two schools in the area would close, and they were hoping the request cancelled that out. "The ambiguity that the minister has put into this is that she's implying that somewhere, someone can reverse decisions," Wright said.

'Election ploy'

Board members put through 'marathon of pain'

A handful of Halifax Regional School Board members expressed their frustration with Education Minister Ramona Jennex during Wednesday's Halifax Regional School Board meeting, saying her decision to suspend the review process could only be an "election ploy."

Board member Kirk Arsenault said he didn't understand why Jennex would request a new process only a week after the HRSB made the decision to send two schools for review.

"I feel a little bit disheartened that the minister would let us go through ... almost a marathon of pain, 59 speakers in one evening, children up here almost in tears," Arsenault said.

"I don't get where it came from, and other than a political platform I can't see a reasoning behind it."

Sheryl Blumenthal-Harrison agreed with Arsenault, saying during the meeting "the minister's not the hero here. Once again, she's in the wrong," because of Jennex's request to suspend closures when that couldn't be done.

"We're disrespected," Blumenthal-Harrison said.

HALEY RYAN/METRO

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'10 Hyundai Elantra (Auto, 33k) **\$12,459**

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'Lack of professionalism' blamed for denial of job

Discrimination case.

Woman takes stand to defend herself against allegation she let worker's contract expire due to pregnancy

CLARK
JANG

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A woman accused of discrimination based on pregnancy said a former employee's work performance gave her "no choice" but to let the contract expire.

Yvonne Atwell, executive director of the Community Justice Society, testified Wednesday before the province's Human Rights Commission that the complainant, Tammy Quilty-MacAskill, showed a "lack of professionalism" as a restorative-justice caseworker.

Quilty-MacAskill alleges her contract wasn't renewed because she was pregnant and would be on maternity leave. Atwell claims the decision was because of poor performance.

Quilty-MacAskill joined the Community Justice Society in April 2009. In June, she received a disciplinary letter for accompanying a youth to a medical appointment, disclosing medical results and calling



Tammy Quilty-MacAskill METRO

a youth's partner an "idiot" during a telephone argument.

Atwell testified the organization could have been held responsible for Quilty-MacAskill's behaviour.

Despite the warning, Atwell said, she gave Quilty-MacAskill a "second chance" and extended her contract to April 2011. During her second term, Quilty-MacAskill served a two-day suspension and two-month probation for performance issues. Atwell said that was the "final straw."

Atwell said Quilty-MacAskill approached her in March 2011 about a position created by a co-worker leaving. Quilty-MacAskill was told she was "leaving," meaning her contract was ending and she wouldn't get the job.



Yvonne Atwell, executive director of the Community Justice Society, leaves the Human Rights Commission hearing this week. JEFF HARPER/METRO

"She said, 'You're doing this because I'm pregnant,'" Atwell testified. "I said, 'That's ridiculous.'"

A week later, Quilty-MacAskill and a former supervisor approached Atwell for another meeting. Atwell said Quilty-MacAskill continued to

push for the job.

"I told her she could apply, but she wasn't going to get it," Atwell said.

During cross-examination, Quilty-MacAskill's lawyer, Ann Smith, asked Atwell what reason she gave during the March meetings for not extending the

contract.

"You did not tell her at any time the reason she would not get more work with the Community Justice Society was because of poor performance," Smith said.

"No, not in those words," Atwell replied.

Wrap-up

Wednesday marked the third day of proceedings. Conclusion of the evidence and closing arguments will take place on Monday.



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Fracking. Slim majority of Cape Bretoners oppose controversial practice

The opinion of Cape Bretoners appears to be in step with the rest of the province when it comes to whether the Nova Scotia government should approve the mining practice of hydraulic fracturing.

A slim majority of 54 per cent of people surveyed by the Halifax-based polling firm Corporate Research Associates Inc. are opposed to hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, as it's commonly called.

It's a controversial practice that includes the use of water, sand and chemicals under pressure in a drilled well to dislodge oil and natural gas deposits, making the natural resource more accessible to oil companies for extraction.

Inverness County deputy warden Dwayne MacDonald said he's not surprised by the numbers, pointing to the fact it has always been a divisive issue in his municipality.

Toronto-based energy company Petroworth Resources has plans to drill a 1,200-metre vertical explora-

Results

The overall results for the province show that 53 per cent are opposed to fracking, while 39 per cent are in favour of it.

tory well in an area on the western side of Lake Ainslie in Inverness County. The permit, approved by the province, expires July 15. Company officials have said it will not include fracking.

"It's split right down the middle, and that's basically what I've heard," MacDonald said in an interview.

The poll released Wednesday found fracking had the support of 40 per cent of Cape Bretoners if the province adopted stringent environmental regulations to monitor the practice. Another six per cent didn't know or weren't sure of where they stood on the issue.

CAPE BRETON POST



Early Years Centres to open doors

Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Ramona Jennex speaks to a crowd of parents and educators at Rockingstone Heights School in Halifax Wednesday on the new Early Years Branch of government, which will operate Early Years Centres throughout the province. The centres, customized for each community, will provide support for kids from birth to age 6 with child care, early learning programs and parent education.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO

Fake sweepstakes

Man accused of fraud schemes

FBI officials say a Nova Scotia man has been arrested in connection with fake sweepstakes and other fraud schemes that targeted Americans for more than \$1.3 million.

FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller says 43-year-old Peter Omagbemi was one of several people who allegedly sent realistic-looking correspondence to targets saying they'd won money in a lottery, sweepstakes or class-action settlement. The victims were told they had to pay fees or taxes, and many did. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Signs of spring

Gates to reopen at Public Gardens

The Halifax Public Gardens will open to the public starting next week.

Starting on Monday, the Gardens will be open daily from 8 a.m. to dusk. The Uncommon Grounds coffee

shop on Horticultural Hill is opening on Tuesday.

HRM is reminding visitors of the Garden's no pets, no biking and no jogging policy. They also ask visitors not to feed the ducks because it can make them dependent on an unnatural food supply.

Visit halifaxpublicgardens.ca for more. **METRO**

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A woman in July 2011 at the grave of one of many newly identified victims of the 1995 massacre in Srebrenica during the Bosnian war. SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Canada boycotts UN justice meeting

War crimes.

Ambassadors protest
Bosnian victim being
thrown out of meeting

Canada, the United States and Jordan boycotted a meeting on international criminal justice organized by the Serbian president of the General Assembly on Wednesday, offended that it didn't include Bosnia's war victims, and attacked the UN war-crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

To protest the victims' exclusion, the UN ambassadors from Jordan and Liechtenstein hosted a press conference for

two victims groups — the Mothers of Srebrenica and the Association of Witnesses and Survivors of Genocide — while assembly president Vuk Jeremic, the former foreign minister of Serbia, presided over the assembly meeting.

Munira Subasic, president of the Mothers of Srebrenica, who lost 22 close family members in the 1995 massacre by Bosnian Serbs, said she was allowed into the assembly meeting as "a silent observer." She listened as Serbia's ultra-nationalist President Tomislav Nikolic criticized the Yugoslav tribunal.

She believed that Nikolic was denying the genocide in Srebrenica, so she said she put on a T-shirt she had brought

as a gift for Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, which said: "Justice Is Slow But It's Reachable."

"All of a sudden I was surrounded by security of Vuk Jeremic" and escorted out of the conference room, Subasic said.

In a lengthy speech soon after, Serbia's Nikolic protested against the "lynch-mobbing of Serbia" and accused the Yugoslav tribunal of "selective justice" by seeking to punish Serbs while overlooking the crimes of Bosnians and Croats.

Aware of the controversy, Ban gave his "full and unequivocal support" to all international tribunals in an opening speech. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Syria. United States may send bigger military aid package to rebel forces

The Obama administration is expected to give Syrian rebels broader nonlethal assistance, including body armour and night-vision goggles, while stopping short of providing weapons to help fight Syrian President Bashar Assad.

The timing and scope of the stepped-up aid package is unclear. U.S. President Barack Obama has not given final approval, and an announcement is not imminent, according to a senior administration official, who requested anonymity.

Secretary of State John Kerry, who met with Syrian opposition leaders on Wednesday, hinted this week at quick action, saying broader

Prolonged conflict

With Syria's civil war in its third year, the U.S. and its allies are struggling to find ways to stem the violence that, according to the United Nations, has killed more than 70,000 people.

assistance for the rebels has been "front and centre" in recent discussions.

Obama has resisted pressure to arm the rebels; underscoring that concern, the leader of the most formidable rebel group in Syria pledged allegiance on Wednesday to al-Qaida. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Sexsomnia

Man acquitted of sleep sex assault

A Danish man has been acquitted of molesting two 17-year-old girls after he was found to suffer from a rare sleep disorder known as "sexsomnia."

The Glostrup court said Wednesday that the man fondled the teenagers while sleeping in his suburban Copenhagen apartment after a party in 2011. But the court cleared the 31-year-old, saying medical tests show he suffers from "sexsomnia," in which a person engages in sexual activity while asleep.

Michael Laub, a Danish sleep specialist who wasn't involved in the case, said it's a rare but widely recognized sleep disorder.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Is Canada failing its children?

Nation ranks 17th out of 29 wealthy countries when it comes to the well-being of our children, according to a new study from UNICEF, the United Nations children's agency.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Photos: Torstar News Service/Getty Images/The Canadian Press File

Ranking 'isn't good enough': UNICEF Canada

UNICEF graded the 29 countries in five categories and Canada's best ranking was 11th in the area of housing and environment. David Morley, UNICEF Canada's president and CEO, says the report shows there's a lot of work to be done. "The fact that our children rank in the bottom half when compared to other industrialized nations simply isn't good enough," Morley said.

Youth smoking pot, not smokes

Canada scored third-best on smoking, with UNICEF saying only four per cent of children aged 11, 13 and 15 reported smoking at least once a week.

The same can't be said for cannabis, with Canada sitting 29th and last with 28 per cent of children saying they have used cannabis within the past year.



Bullying still a major concern

Canada ranked 21st in bullying, with 35 per cent of children aged 11, 13 and 15 reporting being bullied at school at least once in the past couple of months.

More than 1 in 5 have bloated BMI

When it comes to obesity, Canada is third from the bottom, with 20.24 per cent of children aged 11, 13 and 15 deemed overweight based on the body mass index.



A substandard well-being

Canada ranked 14th in educational well-being, 15th in material well-being, 16th in behaviour and risks and a low 27th in health and safety. "It is clear Canada can do better," Morley said. "Protecting and promoting the well-being of our children must become a national priority."

Dutch top list as Canada plummets

The Netherlands remains the overall leader in the study and is the only country ranked among the top five in all dimensions of child well-being.

Meanwhile, Canada's overall ranking drops seven places to 24th when children's views of their own life satisfaction are measured. Only five Eastern European countries rank lower than Canada in this category.

Docs often not told of side-effects by drug reps: Study

Public-health concern.

Minimum standard for drug safety info met in less than 2% of company sales calls

Most family doctors say they

receive little or no information about harmful effects of medications when visited by drug-company sales representatives promoting their products, a survey of Canadian, U.S. and French physicians has found.

Even so, many of the doctors surveyed said they were likely to start prescribing or in-

crease prescriptions of promoted drugs following sales-rep visits, consistent with previous research that shows prescribing behaviour is influenced by pharmaceutical companies' promotion.

"Harm from medication use is a serious public-health concern," said Barbara Mintz-

es, principal researcher of a survey study. "So the information quality, and doctors getting complete information on medicines, is important."

For the study, published online Wednesday in the Journal of General Internal Medicine, the researchers asked 255 family doctors in Montreal,

Vancouver, Sacramento and Toulouse, France, to fill out a questionnaire each time they were visited by a drug-company rep.

In all, the physicians provided information on almost 1,700 drug promotions between May 2009 and June 2010.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



A new study suggests doctors aren't always told of harmful effects by drug sellers. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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Putin mistakenly banned from Finland

Finished with the Finnish? Interior minister offers the Russian president her 'sincerest apologies'

Vladimir Putin, banned in Finland?

Finnish police say the Rus-

sian president's name was mistakenly placed on a secret criminal register that could theoretically have gotten him arrested at the border.

It was reported Wednesday that Putin was placed there due to his contact with the Russian motorcycle gang Night Wolves, though he wasn't suspected of a crime in Finland.

But National Police Board

Quoted

"This kind of incident is extremely exceptional and is not acceptable under any circumstances."

Mikko Paatero, head of Finland's national police force

spokesman Robin Lardot said the listing was a mistake and

that Putin's name was removed from the list.

"The National Police Board has investigated the case and indeed found that such a mistaken entry was in the register," Lardot said.

"We have ordered it to be removed and are investigating the case very thoroughly. We don't know how it got there."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Vladimir Putin plays with his dogs Yume and Buffy in the Moscow region on March 24. ALEXEI DRUZHININ/RIA NOVOSTI/PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SERVICE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unusual target

Circus elephant survives drive-by shooting injury

Authorities say a Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus elephant was hit by a bullet in a drive-by shooting in Tupelo, Miss. Circus spokeswoman

Melinda Hartline says the elephant, named Carol, was not seriously hurt, and no other animals were harmed.

Police Chief Tony Carleton says a vehicle drove past the arena about 2 a.m. and fired into the area. Police are investigating.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'One of the worst things I've seen.' Puppy tied to train tracks in California

Officials say a 78-year-old man tied a puppy to train tracks in the California desert, and an engineer had to use emergency brakes to keep from crushing it.

Riverside County animal control said Tuesday that Banjo, a 10-month-old poodle-terrier mix, is fine and up for adoption.

Union Pacific Special Agent Sal Pina responded and called

the scene "one of the worst things I've seen."

Pina untied Banjo and detained the man, who said his family didn't want the dog and didn't know what to do.

Pina says he couldn't pursue charges against the unidentified man because he appeared confused and didn't understand what he'd done.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



This image, provided by Riverside County Animal Services, shows Banjo, a 10-month-old poodle-terrier mix that was rescued after being tied to train tracks in the California desert. RIVERSIDE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS




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Porter Airlines reveals long-haul ambitions

Controversial plan.

Expansion hinges on being allowed to land jets on T.O.'s waterfront

Porter Airlines unveiled an ambitious plan to become the third national carrier on Wednesday after signing an agreement to buy a dozen new Bombardier CS100 jets and expand the cities where it flies.

But the company faces several significant hurdles along the way as it seeks to change the rules and extend the runway at the small waterfront airport where it's headquartered in Toronto.

Porter president and chief executive Robert Deluce says he's confident enough that his airline will prevail that he doesn't have a backup plan.

"Our plan is predicated on us being able to get the approvals that we need in order to be able to operate these airplanes," he said after a media event held



Bob Deluce, left, president and CEO of Porter Airlines, sits with Bombardier president Mike Arcamone in a Bombardier CS100 aircraft on Wednesday. Deluce announced the airline's purchase of 12 of the planes, with an option for a further 18, at a news conference in Toronto. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport. Jets are not allowed to fly out of Billy Bishop, which is on an island near the city's lakefront, except under special circumstances.

The current rules are part of a tripartite agreement between the City of Toronto, the federal government and the Toronto Port Authority, making it dif-

ficult to get quick action from the necessary authorities.

Deluce said the airline plans to fly the jets to destinations such as Vancouver, Los Angeles and Florida that its current fleet of turboprops can't reach. Porter will also seek permission to extend the main runway at the airport by 168 metres at each end. THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.K. Retailers ration baby milk powder to cope with surge in Chinese demand

Demand for baby milk formula is surging in Britain, but it seems likely the powder is going to babies thousands of miles away.

British retailers said Wednesday that they are limiting purchases of baby milk powder to two tins per customer after noticing some people were buying unusually large quantities in stores, apparently to export to China for profit.

Danone, the dairy producer, said it has significantly increased production of powdered baby milk in response to

the bulk-buying trend.

"We understand that the increased demand is a result of unofficial exports to China to satisfy the needs of Chinese parents who want international brands for their babies," Danone, which makes Aptamil and Cow & Gate baby formulas, said in a statement.

Baby formula made by foreign brands is in great demand in China, where parents have been wary of local dairy products since a contaminated milk scandal left six babies dead in 2008. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A sign limiting the purchase of milk-formula powder hangs on a shelf in a supermarket in London on Wednesday. KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sticky situation

BMO lauded for being nice to mice

BMO is getting a Compassionate Company Award and a big box of vegan chocolates shaped like mice from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. After learning from PETA about the cruelty of using sticky glue traps to kill mice, BMO banned the devices from its approximately 900 locations nationwide. METRO

Market Minute

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NEWS NOT FIT FOR PRINT

I have a lot of esteemed titles — freelance writer, ex-husband, that guy in Metro — but none bring me more respect than editor-in-chief of Canada's most dignified newspaper, The Beaver Examiner.

Perhaps you've heard of it. With mission statements to "keep fake news real" and "treat every week like shark week," The BeEx has been bringing insightful Canadian news to reader(s) since 2005, updated any time — day or night — once every several months.

As you'll see below, The Beaver Examiner is unencumbered by fact-checking, spelchecking or any of the other quaint traditions that hold back so many newspapers (seven worldwide as of press time). Enjoy and be enlightened!

The Beaver Examiner News Briefs: Proudly Independent From Facts

• **Rescuers Say 751,171 People Stranded In New Brunswick NEAR THE N.B. BORDER** — Emergency crews are being urgently dispatched to the province of New Brunswick today, after it was discovered that 751,171 people have been stranded there for the



HE SAYS

John Mazerolle

metronews.ca

entire winter.

Rescuers said they are having a difficult time accessing the area, due to a lack of affordable airfare and fear of becoming stranded themselves.

"We're hoping for the best, but we hear there may be 69,000 people in Moncton alone," said rescue co-ordinator Kerry Chandler, choking back tears.

Chandler said it was the most shocking disaster he and his staff can recall since rescuers stumbled upon several million people crammed into squalid conditions in downtown Toronto.

• **Unusually Skilled Witness to Shooting Knew Immediately Gunshots Were Gunshots** VANCOUVER — Burnaby resident Tom Mayer, a skilled witness to tragedy and unusually adept

innocent passerby, knew immediately that a gunshot he heard while leaving a bar in the Vancouver downtown was a gunshot.

"I heard a 'pop, pop' sound and I thought 'gunshots!' right away," the wise-beyond-his-peers Mayer said. "Definitely not a firecracker, firework, or car backfiring." Mayer said the tragedy that injured four didn't seem at all like an action movie, "because

that's kind of stupid."

Mayer said he picked up his witnessing acumen years ago when he saw a Cessna crash that he knew instantly had nothing to do with terrorism.

• **Prone Man Criticizes Goaltender's Positioning** WINNIPEG — Rick McHutchion, a Manitoba man who had been lying on his back on his couch for almost three hours, expressed disgust at the positioning of Winnipeg Jets goaltender Ondřej Pavelec during Tuesday's game against the Buffalo Sabres.

"He looks terrible out there," said McHutchion, as he fished awkwardly for the final chip in a bag resting on his ample stomach. "He should be embarrassed."

McHutchion added that the Winnipeg defence is lazy, and that he'd change the channel in disgust if the remote wasn't so far away.

And that's a look at the award-winning news coverage The Beaver Examiner brings every single day that I feel like it.

Check in next week when we'll examine a new survey that shows that nine out of 10 government scientists, when asked about being "muzzled" by the federal government, said "Mphm! Mphm!"

ZOOM

Why take the stairs when ...



SOLENT NEWS AND PHOTO AGENCY

... sliding into the office is a breeze

British IT company Peer 1 Hosting has unleashed the most enjoyable office ever. Their design makeover came complete with cinema, pub, pool table, golf course, tree house and giant helter-skelter slide. **METRO**

Other fun offices

- **Google:** Zurich. It's fitting that the tech giants put effort into their office. There is a rule to be never more than 100 metres from food, while an aquarium and library provide relaxation.
- **Comvert:** Milan. The clothing company has an indoor skating rink suspended above their desks to blow off steam.
- **DTAC:** Bangkok. Mobile-phone providers have a whole building and a floor for activities, featuring indoor soccer, table tennis, running track and concert hall.
- **Selgas Cano:** Madrid. This architecture firm has designed their building to blend into the Spanish forest.

Clickbait



ANDREW FIFIELD

andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Most of us amateurs have strengthened our Instagram chops considerably since those heady early days of documenting pets, parks and undeserving food. But we still have a long way to go before catching up to these iPhone-slinging pros.



AikBeng Chia:

With iPhone in pocket, AikBeng Chia wanders the streets of Singapore to provide a series of all-hours glimpses of the city's people, art and architecture. @aikbengchia

Robert Paul Jansen:

A Dutch photographer who whiles away his spare hours by shooting the

beautiful, frequently fog-shrouded Netherlands landscape. @robertpauljansen

Benedicte Guillon:

A Paris street photographer with an uncanny eye for capturing one of the world's most photogenic cities. Vacation vicariously in your pocket. @iphoneographic

Twitter



@metropicks asked:
@Oprah is in trouble for backing skin cream derived from baby foreskins. What's your not-so-sketchy beauty secret?

@MisterInsight: I don't use any product, natural beauty is as fine as it comes

@jpadamson: Coconut oil as a hair conditioner and as a moisturizer. Smells great! Moisturizing! And you smell delicious!

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

Letters

RE: Daredevil Raccoon Performs High-Wire Stunt, published April 9

I can have positivity with regards to raccoons. I'm positive they are a health hazard. I'm positive they are a pest. I'm positive there needs to be a raccoon control program.

Myworkisdonehere posted to metronews.ca

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SCENE

17

Pianist tickled to tickle the ivories for Halifax crowd

Jan Lisiecki.
Juno-nominated musician excited to be playing on the east coast



**BACKSTAGE
PASS**
Jenna Conter
halifax@metronews.ca

What's the fastest way to get to Carnegie Hall? Classical pianist Jan Lisiecki, who played there in 2008 at the tender age of 13, would argue it's practice. It's just one of the many world famous concert halls to have hosted the now 18-year-old.

Now, our own Symphony Nova Scotia is elated to have him grace the stage at the Rebecca Cohn on Thursday night. It's his second time playing the venue.

"Every hall brings something different with it and I feel every concert is of equal importance," said Lisiecki in a recent phone interview.

"Of course it's wonderful when you play in the big halls, for me, the joy often comes from playing for people I've known and people who appreciate the music," he added. "The difference in Halifax, or cities like that, don't have four major orchestras and 10 different concert halls playing every night so the appreciation for the music when it does come is greater."

Admittedly not born into a

musical family, this Calgarian started tickling the ivories at just five years old. And he and his family, as he explained it, have continued on this adventure together.

With a 2013 Juno nomination for classical album of the year, Lisiecki's fame in the classical world continues to humble him.

"I am very privileged and honoured because all of my fellow nominees are my idols in Canadian classical music and it's a privilege to be among them in this nomination. I'm very happy."

Lisiecki will join the symphony on stage to perform Chopin Piano Concerto No. 1. Though Chopin may not break into the top five of Lisiecki's favourite composers, the music, he noted, connects to even the most skeptical classical music fan. "His music speaks to everybody — everybody that listens to him can understand it and associate with it — even if they don't necessarily love classical music. Somehow it has this draw."

If you go...

- **What.** Jan Lisiecki plays Chopin with Symphony Nova Scotia
- **Where.** The Rebecca Cohn Auditorium
- **When.** Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
- **Tickets.** symphonynovascotia.ca



Jan Lisiecki, 18, has been playing the piano since the age of five. BEN WOLF DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON

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Thursday, April 11, 2013

It's no Mama, but she does hump a chair

Scary Movie 5. Ashley Tisdale faced some challenges while making the latest instalment of the horror flick spoof

NED
EHRBAR
Metro World News

Here's a challenge most actors don't have to face: Doing last-minute reshoots that constitute more than half of the main plot of the movie. But that's exactly what Ashley Tisdale found herself faced with when her bosses on Scary Movie 5 decided they needed their spoof to be more up-to-date and worked in some digs at this year's horror hits Mama and Evil Dead. And they had to work fast. Of course, some of that might be Tisdale's own fault, though.

"I saw Mama opening weekend," Tisdale remembers. "I came out of there and I texted the producers, 'Oh



Ashley Tisdale stars in Scary Movie 5, opening this weekend. HANDOUT

my gosh, like we should really be spoofing Mama because it just worked so well.' And then (writer) Phil (Beauman) was like, 'Funny, we're actually going to spoof Mama.' So then we saw it again."

By the actress' estimation, the additional material spoofing Mama and Evil Dead

— based solely on seeing the trailer — accounted for about 60 per cent of the finished movie, done over about 10 days of filming.

Before signing on for the latest in the Scary Movie franchise, Tisdale was admittedly far from a horror fan.

"I have always been really

scared of scary movies just because I live by myself, and seeing something, then having a big imagination and then thinking you see it in the middle of the night (is terrifying)," she says.

"So I've never been really into them. But it's funny because doing this movie, now

Facing her fears

"I have always been really scared of scary movies just because I live by myself, and seeing something, then having a big imagination and then thinking you see it in the middle of the night (is terrifying.)"

Ashley Tisdale
Talking about working on Scary Movie 5.

I like them. Now I'll go watch Mama, because then I see things and I'm like, 'Oh my gosh, that's so spoof-able.' Because sometimes it's just so ridiculous."

But not nearly as ridiculous as simulating sex with household objects, something Tisdale was called on to do to excess for one overstuff montage in Scary Movie 5 — with some covered during the initial filming and some added in at the last minute. It proved to be a steep learning

curve.

"I had humped a potted plant in Atlanta, and that was nerve-wracking," she remembers.

"There was only one camera guy and they kept it really quiet so it was OK. But by the time I got to having to be with the chair and the microwave and all over the place, I was just like, 'Oh, I've got this. It's fine that everybody's watching.'"

That earned confidence didn't mean the performance was easy, though.

"I do recall having the hardwood chair hitting me from behind and I looked from behind and I was all into it. And then suddenly, I was just like, 'I'm getting slammed by a chair right now,' and I started hysterically laughing," she says, adding that the chair's enthusiasm was provided by a prop guy.

"They're like, 'Do it harder!' And I'm like, 'It's hard wood. It hurts.' I wish there was a camera on the prop guy who was probably like jamming it behind me. It just was so wrong."

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Let's get our Glitter on!

Tom Cruise admits to being caught off guard by divorce

Tom Cruise is finally opening up about his divorce from Katie Holmes, which caught most of Hollywood off guard. And it turns out it caught Cruise off guard as well.

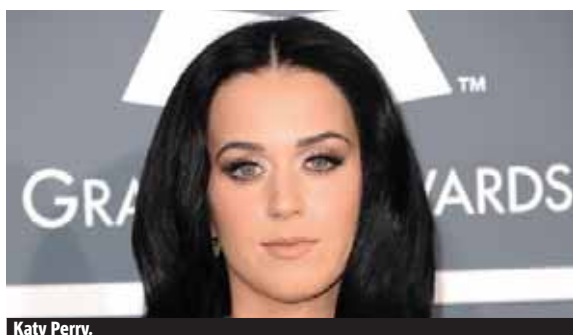
"I didn't expect it," he says in an interview with German TV station ProSieben.

"To be 50 and to have experiences and to think you have a grip on everything, and then it hits you — this is it, what life can do to you. Life is a tragedy. You need to have a sense of humour."



Tom Cruise.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES



Katy Perry.

Perry ridding herself of Brand

Katy Perry is quickly unloading any remnants from her marriage to Russell Brand, including the Hollywood Hills home he bought in 2011 and then relinquished to her following

their divorce, according to Us Weekly.

Perry is listing the seven-bedroom, 11-bath home for \$6.925 million. It sits on a three-acre compound near the Chateau Marmont.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Gosling has kind words to say about Britney Spears

Growing up as co-stars on the Mickey Mouse Club made for some interesting run-ins between Ryan Gosling and Britney Spears — at least to hear Gosling tell it.

"Britney was a sweetheart," Gosling tells the U.K.'s Sunday Times magazine.

"She lived right above me, the girl next door. The little girl I used to play basketball and spin the bottle with."

Old pals

"She lived right above me, the girl next door. The little girl I used to play basketball and spin the bottle with."

Ryan Gosling
Talking about Britney Spears.

Their other Club-members included Justin Timberlake, Christina Aguilera and Keri Russell.

"I mean, sometimes you are at the same event, but it's a lot like I imagine what it's like to run into someone from elementary school," he says of how the old gang relates to each other now.



Twitter



@joelmchale

Last week my 5yr old walked out on our hotel balcony & repeatedly screamed GIVE ME MONEY. I thought "Wow, someday he will be a great leader"



@pattonoswalt

Sure, Diddy is dating @KateUpton. But did he win @esquiremag's Twitter War? Did he? DID HE?!? (Hugs crown, bursts into tears)



@SteveMartinToGo

When I was twelve, I wanted to launch a missile, too.



Lindsay Lohan.

Lohan pal looked to Liza to get the troubled star back on track

Lindsay Lohan was nearly given quite the talking to by Liza Minnelli late last year when the legendary singer was reportedly approached by a Lohan pal to stage an intervention, according to Radar Online.

Lohan's friend, Claus Hjelm-bak,

was the one who is said to have reached out to Minnelli.

"He was so concerned for her well-being because of her continued use of prescription pills and booze," a source says. "He reached out to Liza Minnelli's camp, in the hope that she could help. Liza has battled her own demons with alcohol and has been very supportive publicly of Lindsay. Claus thought that if anyone could get through to Lindsay, Liza could be that person."

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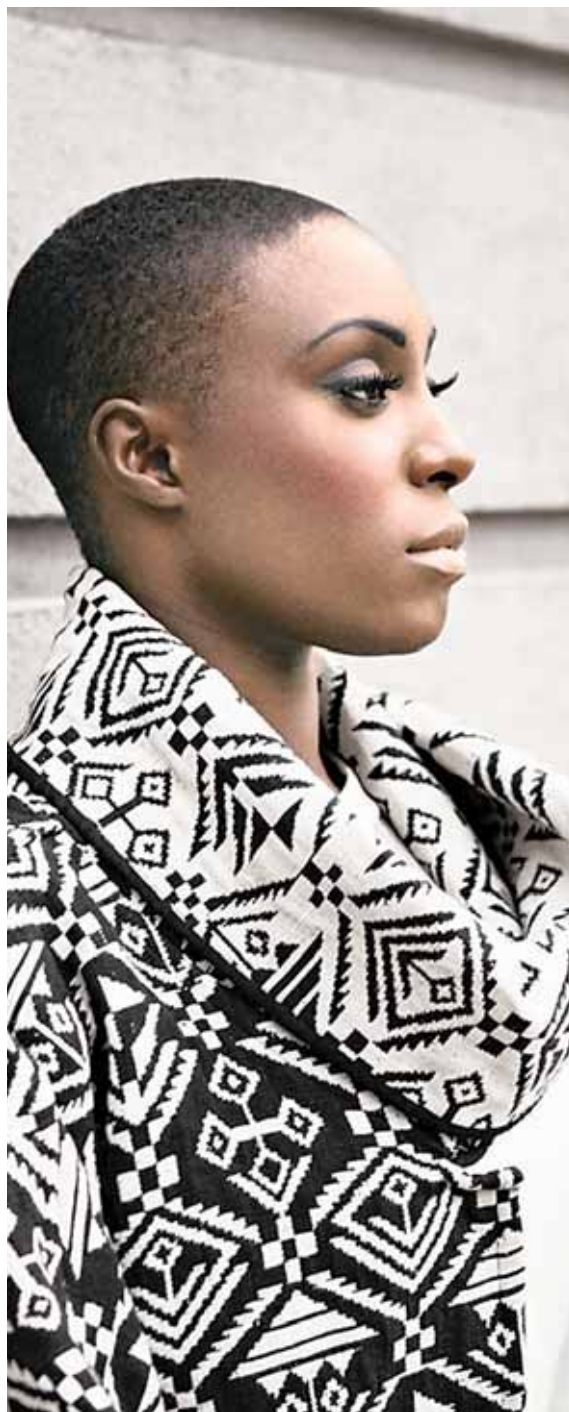
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LAURA MVULA

British singer Laura Mvula sounds like Nina Simone and is being called the next Adele. She talks to us about her personal style.

'I'M AN EXPLORER'

KENYA HUNT

Metro World News in London

Laura Mvula's anthemic single, *That's Alright*, is a declaration against all of the unrealistic beauty standards promoted in magazines that make women second-guess themselves: "I will never be what you want and that's alright. Cause my skin ain't light and my body ain't tight. And that's alright."

So it's not surprising that the Brit who is often described as this generation's answer to Nina Simone would be equally secure in her sense of personal style.

As she prepares to go on tour in support of her new album, *Sing to the Moon*, she opens up about her natural hair,

crush on Vivienne Westwood and weakness for big heels.

Styling around her natural hair

"My hair is very short, so it's important for me to feel soft and feminine. I like to think I'm a warm person. I like to soften my image as much as possible so that my short hair isn't overly strong or intimidating."

Her stage persona versus her off-duty one

"I think the two go alongside each other. Even things like being practical, which isn't my strongest point as a person. Sometimes I'm standing at a keyboard, and I want to wear my big heels. I love my big heels. But even though I might have a specific image and vision in my head, it also has to be comfortable for me to wear. I think what I wear will change as I work with bigger ensembles."

At the moment simplicity is really important to me. I want to come off the stage feeling comfortable, like I've been able to move and not think about this wrap falling off my head or the length of my skirt."

On figuring out her look

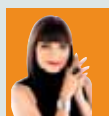
"I'm an explorer. My dad used to say that I was always the kid in the wardrobe trying on ridiculous pieces together and thinking somehow that they would work. I think a lot about my style and my image, which is really important to me. Even though I do feel like a baby when it comes to fashion. I still feel very much at the beginning of it all."

Her ultimate fashion fantasy

"I dream about Vivienne Westwood. When I was getting married, I spent a lot of time dreaming about her dresses. But to have this kind of (professional) opportunity makes (her clothes) more attainable. I've worn some of her pieces before. They're so elegant, pretty and feminine."



Twitter



JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

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Look who I just ran into! About to interview the babe-acious Nia Vardalos @theloopca about her new book "Instant Mom".

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Vancouver

Kayla Damiani
Server/
Restaurant
Manager

Age: 29

What she's wearing

BCBG hat, Free People coat, Alexander Wang T-shirt, Will bag, Urban Outfitters shoes.

Her inspiration

"This is my special downtown weekend! I'm meeting a good friend for coffee."

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Check, mate!

'Tis the season for sporting some peppy tailoring. Metro rounds up the best of the spring selections.

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News in London

Let's start with the obvious: the checked sports jacket is not subtle. It was once the preserve of country club types, weekending '80s bankers and men too old to care about modesty. However, these days most urbanites are willing to subscribe to more outré outfits and this natty number is certainly one way to go about it. The cut, as with most modern tailoring, is slimmer and less boxy, making it the perfect partner for chinos or shorts for the summer months.



Paul Smith

sky blue check patch pocket jacket, \$820, paulsmith.co.uk



Zara

Double breasted linen blazer, \$189, zara.com



Topman

Blue and green tartan blazer, \$220, topman.com



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DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
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With the recent hoopla about new fashion and decor retailers invading Canada, I thought I'd pay homage to the home decor retailers who have been born and bred in this country.

I've always believed we have consistently been home

to the best, and with a good style-eye, anyone can find attractive, on-trend home decor items for less than what others might expect.

The trick to an interesting decor is to mix various price points and styles that complement each other. If you are looking for some well-priced accessories, here's a list of my favourite items from nationally available — and Canadian-born — retail and online stores.

EQ3

Born 12 years ago, the Winnipeg-based furniture manufacturer now has 11 stores in Canada and a comprehensive website that allows online shoppers to purchase affordable modern furnishings from coast to coast. Made in Canada upholstered furnishings are great quality and excellent value.



Matt Rocker, \$599, eq3.com

Urban Barn

Founded by two high school friends 23 years ago, BC's born-and-bred home furnishings retailer boasts 41 locations and a comprehensive website. Trend-conscious shoppers can find amazingly priced furnishings and home accessories that change seasonally. Look for semi-custom furniture and carpets, trendsetting decorative objects and art. My favourite piece at the moment is a modern deco inspired bookcase that would act perfectly as a room divider as well.



Biblioteca Bookcase, \$699, urbanbarn.com

Simons

The esteemed family-owned retailer from Quebec has been in the fashion and housewares business for more than 170 years — it recently opened a new store in Edmonton. Canadians can even shop for their home decor online. Its bedding and tabletop linens always please me and Simons' imported lines are hard to find elsewhere. I am always impressed with the bedding: great quality, well priced and some very interesting designs.



New York Duvet Cover Set, from \$130, simons.ca

Homesense

The domestic spin-off of discount fashion retailer Winners, Homesense boasts prices 20 to 60 per cent less than other retailers. With around 90 stores coast-to-coast, savvy home decor shoppers are sure to enjoy quality brands at discount prices. Homesense is my go-to for decorative pillows in designer styles, fabrics and fills (many have posh down/feather fills) that would cost five times the price elsewhere.



Designer-style pillows, from \$14, homesense.ca

eCarpetGallery

Based in Montreal, this importer of new, vintage and antique rugs is known for its free shipping, fast delivery and exceptional pricing. Without a showroom and commissioned sales staff, this online business can offer the best prices in Canada. The rugs are imported, handmade and, in many cases, vintage, which makes them classics to collect and keep forever. Right now I am crazy for the over-dyed Persians and patchwork rugs that are a fraction of the cost of the high-end rug retailers.



Over-dyed semi-antique patchwork rugs, from \$200, ecarpetgallery.com

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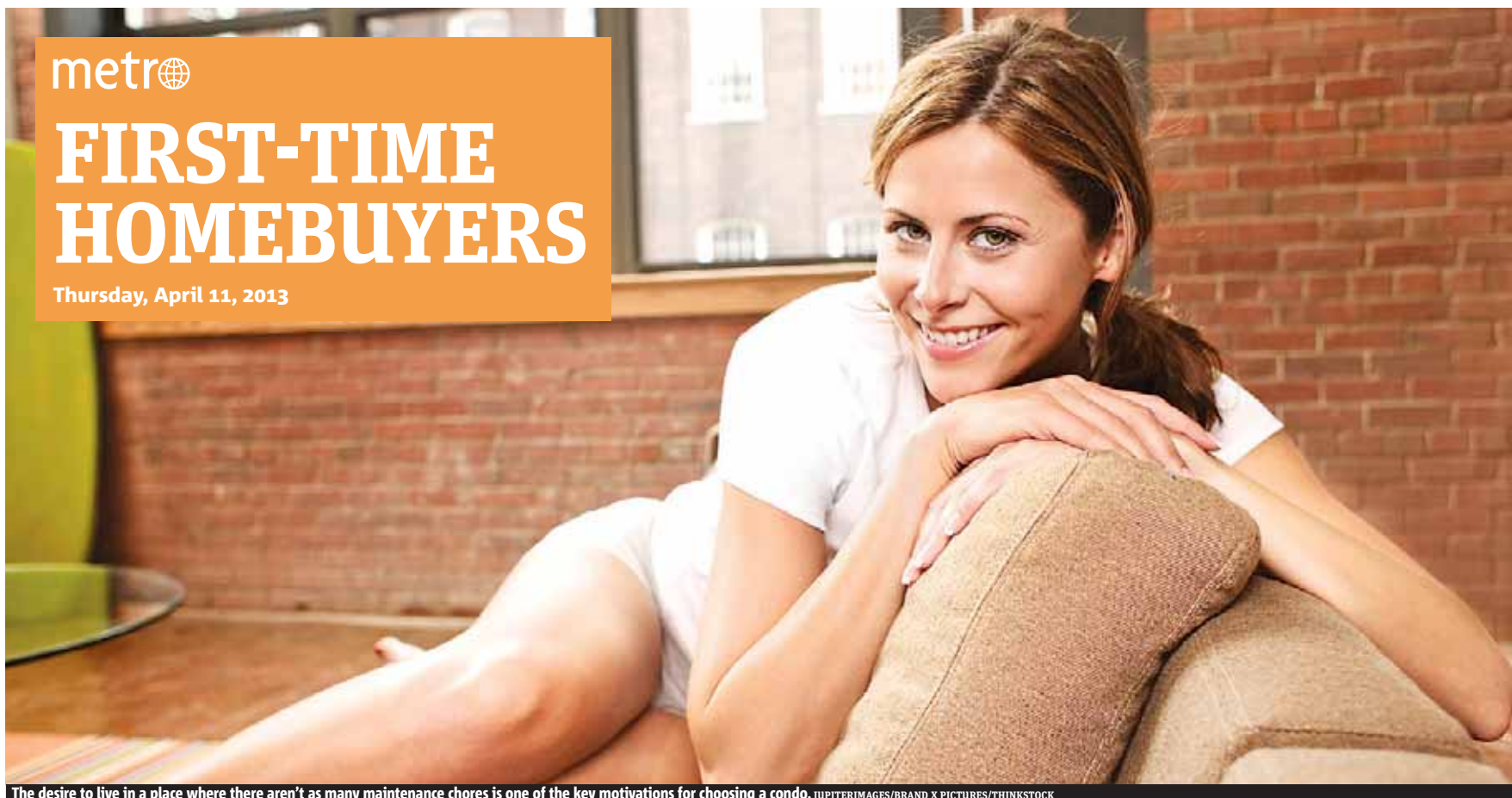
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FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS

Thursday, April 11, 2013



The desire to live in a place where there aren't as many maintenance chores is one of the key motivations for choosing a condo. JUPITERIMAGES/BRAND X PICTURES/THINKSTOCK

Low-maintenance living

Condominiums. Having fewer responsibilities makes housing arrangements easier for people

RICHARD WOODBURY
For Metro

Working as a real estate agent for the last 15 years, Joyce Richards has noticed that while there are different groups of people buying condos, there is a

common thread between them. Whether it's the retiree looking to downsize or the young person who travels a lot, the desire to live in a place where there aren't as many maintenance chores is one of the key motivations for choosing a condo.

Having fewer responsibilities makes housing arrange-

ments easier for people who travel or work out of town frequently.

"You just lock the door and go," says the Halifax-based real estate agent with Coldwell Banker Supercity Realty.

Another advantage of living in a condo is it allows people to live more centrally, thus allowing them to walk to work, be close to public transportation and the amenities of a downtown.

"People like to buy condos

for the location," says Nic Blachette, a real estate agent with Sutton West Coast Realty in Vancouver.

There are, of course, downsides to condo living.

"I think some of the cons are people don't understand they are moving into a community," Richards says.

She says issues can pop up where people aren't respectful of their neighbours. Unlike living in one's own house, they have to be especially careful

about the noise they create since condos will have different types of noise restrictions.

"You do have neighbours and they're a lot closer than when you had a house," Richards says.

Conflict between the owners at a condo building can also come about because of things like repairs to the units. While something like window replacements may not seem like a conflict generator on the surface, the fact owners may

disagree on how much to spend on the replacements can create conflict, Blachette cautions.

Also, condos may not be an ideal fit for families as the amenities of a condo tend to be more geared towards adults, Richards says.

Before purchasing a condo, people need to make sure the building meshes well with their lifestyle.

"It's a good concept," Richards says. "It just has to meet your lifestyle."



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Financial due diligence is a must

Finances. Leave room in your budget for an increase in condo fees, which are inevitable

RICHARD WOODBURY
For Metro

When people start looking to purchase real estate, they often get pre-approved mortgages to know how much money they can borrow.

Shawna Snair, a mortgage specialist with The Mortgage Centre in Halifax, has some advice for people looking to get a mortgage for a condo.

"You have to be really careful that you specify it is a condo you are looking at," she says.

The reason is that while condo ownership and home ownership share many of the same ongoing costs, there is one key difference — condo fees.

Because of this additional monthly expense, it changes a person's financial position and can impact whether they qualify for the amount of fi-

nancing for which they were originally pre-approved.

As part of the pre-approval process, Snair also insists people ask whether it includes a credit check since not all lenders perform a

credit check on a pre-approval. Otherwise, if something negative comes up during the credit check, the application could end up being denied.

It is also important that when people determine what their budget is, they should leave some wiggle room in case the condo fees increase. Generally, condo fees in-

crease (and rarely do they get decreased).

The condo fees an owner pays go towards covering their share of common property elements, as well as a building's reserve fund. The reserve fund covers the major repairs and replacements that will be needed over a building's life.

Assessing the health of

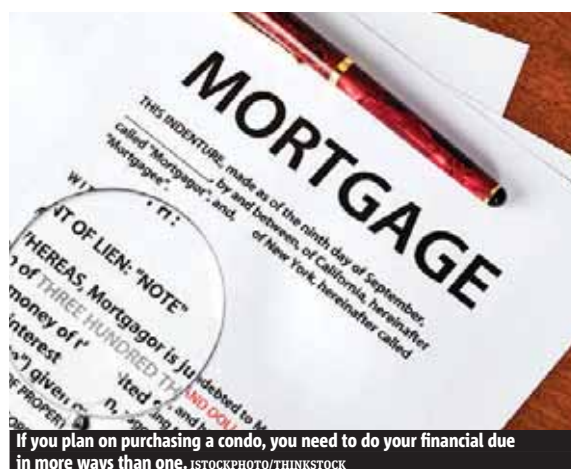
the reserve fund is especially important since it will offer an indication whether significant increases in condo fees lie ahead.

Lawyer Rick Carlson practises real estate law in Saskatoon and a client recently had him look into the health of a building's reserve fund prior to making a purchase.

"You could see ... they

were underfunded quite a bit so they were going to have to be making significant catch-up payments over the next several years to reach their goals," says the partner with Cuelenaere Kendall Katzman & Watson.

The bottom line is people purchasing a condo need to do their financial due diligence in more ways than one.



Condo fees change your financial position and can impact whether you qualify for the amount of financing for which you were originally pre-approved. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

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Know the rules before you move in

Bylaws. Condos have a structure in place so that living conditions appeal to everyone

RICHARD WOODBURY
For Metro

Every condo building has its own set of rules, regulations and bylaws.

"The restrictions are essentially a fourth level of government, a way of creating sanity within an environment," says Bill Thompson, the vice-president of the Canadian Condominium Institute's national executive board.

He says because condos are "a lifestyle-driven environment," the rules, regulations and bylaws in place are meant to reflect that.

For example, a condo for seniors will probably have a lot of noise restrictions, while a condo with a rooftop "party bar" probably won't have many, Thompson says.



Even though a person may own a condominium unit, it doesn't necessarily mean they can do whatever they want, including owning pets. HEMERA/THINKSTOCK

Besides noise, things like whether pets are permitted are spelled out. If they are, the kinds and numbers allowed will be specified.

While a person may own

their unit, it doesn't necessarily mean they can do whatever they want to it. For example, if they want to renovate the kitchen, there is likely a process by which a person will

need to get approval before the work begins.

"The condo owners, they have to appreciate that there's a structure in place and that structure is supposed to be

for the betterment of the condominium corporation," says Linda Pinizzotto, the founder and president CEO of Condo Owners Association, a non-profit organization repre-

senting condo owners in Ontario.

She says it's important that if people disagree with the rules, regulations and bylaws in place, they have a means of questioning them fairly and respectfully. Enforcement of the rules, bylaws and regulations is handled by a building's condo corporation.

Using Ontario as an example, if the condo corporation is unable to enforce the rules, the matter would be handled by mediation (and then binding arbitration if mediation didn't work). If both of those things fail, the condo corporation could end up getting a court-enforced order.

However, Thompson says there are instances where mediation and arbitration will be bypassed directly for a court-enforced order. One example is if a building has a weight limit for dogs and the dog exceeds that limit.

"There is no dispute over the rule," Thompson says. "The owner is just simply breaching the rule."




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Condo fees. More important than people think

RICHARD WOODBURY
For Metro

While it is said that death and taxes are the two certainties in life, for people living in a condo, one can add condo fees to the list.

These are the fees unit owners pay on a monthly basis to cover their portion of the operating and mainten-

ance expenses of a condo's common elements.

Because these may differ from condo to condo, they may include things such as snow removal, maintaining a building's heating and cooling system, and the salaries of condo employees.

"Condo fees are much more important than people think," says Anne-Marie Ambert, the founder of the web-

site condoinformation.ca.

She recommends people research how the fees at a given condo compare to other nearby condos that are similar in age and style.

While low fees may be attractive on the surface, it might be an indication a building doesn't have much of a reserve fund in place. (A reserve fund ensures there is enough money available to fund ma-

ior repairs and replacements over a building's life.)

If a building has an inadequate reserve fund, it can make up the difference by way of a special assessment charge.

"This is why it is important to review the financial statements, reserve fund level, building condition surveys, inspection reports, maintenance history and the estoppel

or status certificate for the corporation before you commit to buying," says the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Condominium Buyers' Guide.

On the flip side, high condo fees are another cause for concern since they may be indicative of wasteful spending by the condo corporation, Ambert says.

Bill Thompson, the vice-

president of the Canadian Condominium Institute's national executive board, says it's important that people choose condos that reflect their lifestyles since this has an impact on how much the condo fees will be.

"You have to look for a condominium that suits your lifestyle," he says.

For example, if people are looking for a condo that has a

Create a cosy outdoor haven

Most condo and apartment balconies are barren spaces surrounded by dull, grey concrete, steel and glass. They aren't very inviting. And that's probably why most of us don't use them very often.

But why not use every inch of your little piece of urban real estate to its fullest? If your building's rules allow you to, the experts at Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse offer a range of suggestions to maximize your living space by creating a cosy outdoor haven.

A concrete floor isn't very welcoming. Adding a small outdoor area rug will make it comfortable for your bare feet.

Look for small-scale furniture that is both comfortable and functional. A cushioned corner chair or lounge at one end of a balcony gives you a place to read a book or take a breezy nap.

A small bistro table and two chairs tucked into another corner create a relaxing nook for your morning tea or evening glass of wine.

If you have the space and a suitable corner, two short storage benches or deck boxes and a square table form a dining booth for entertaining.

Whatever furnishings you



A small bistro table and two chairs tucked into corner create a relaxing nook on your condo balcony. NEWS CANADA PHOTO

choose, make sure your seating is comfortable. If your current chairs don't have padding, invest in a few washable outdoor cushions. Then add some outdoor pillows and throw blankets.

Don't be afraid to choose bright colours and fun designs.

A balcony is for relaxing and entertaining, so it should be friendly and inviting.

If you will be using your patio at night, the right lantern or outdoor candle can create a

warm, relaxing ambience.

A tiny garden can also add some life to your balcony. Many potted flowers and plants thrive in small spaces.

"For a little variety, combo planters are great for creating balcony gardens, and they come in a range of colours and styles," says Sarah Skeates, a merchandising specialist with Lowe's. "If you don't have space for a garden, a hanging wall bag adds a splash of colour to any outside wall space."

NEWS CANADA

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**RICHARD
WOODBURY**
For Metro

While condos often bring to mind thoughts of units in a highrise building, the reality is they can consist of many different styles of buildings, such as townhouses and single-detached houses.

Regardless of the type, it is important people find out what exactly they own before purchasing a condo.

"It's always more advisable to get legal counsel prior to doing anything because there are consequences — both financial and otherwise — to signing agreements," says Sylvan Schneider, the president of Schneider Attorney Inc. in Montreal.

This is especially true given that no two condos are exactly like.

In most cases, "you basically own everything that's in the unit and then you have a share in everything that's outside of the unit," says Rosellina Giardino, a real estate lawyer with Giardino Law in Edmonton.

The items that would fall



Condos can consist of many different styles of buildings and layouts. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

outside of the unit (and thus qualify as a common element) would be things like the hallways, any amenity rooms and the building's mechanical systems. As well, it's important to look into whether extras such as parking spaces or storage are included as part of the deal.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) cautions that while these may be for the exclusive use of a unit owner, there may be conditions attached to using them.

"While these spaces are exclusive to your use, there may be restrictions on how and when you use them," says the CMHC's Condominium Buyers' Guide.

While ownership in most condos consists of owning the unit and having a share in the common elements, it isn't always that way.

In the case of freehold condominiums (also known as a bare/vacant land condominium), "the unit may be the en-

tire house including the exterior walls, the roof and, in some cases, the land surrounding the structure," CMHC says.

The CMHC also says the maintenance of these outside elements may be the responsibility of the condo corporation or the unit owner.

To bring clarity to just what one owns and who is responsible for maintenance, it is crucial to get sound advice.

"It's really important to talk to a lawyer," says Giardino.



Find out exactly what you own before buying a condo. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

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Compact condos can appear roomy with space-saving furniture and clever storage solutions. PHOTOS.COM/THINKSTOCK



Wait until you move to see what possessions work in a new space and which ones don't. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Decorating for smaller spaces

TRACY
HANES
For Metro

One of the challenges of moving to a condo is adapting to living in a relatively small space. But even compact condos can appear roomy with space-saving furniture, clever storage solutions and decorating tricks.

Interior decorator Mary Bannet of Just the Thing Interiors (justthethinginteriors.com) says the first order of business is to edit belongings. Some clients may want to wait until they move to see what possessions work in the new space and which ones have to go, she says.

She says buyers shouldn't feel compelled to follow a condo floor plan.

"Just because the plan says a space is a dining room doesn't mean you have to use it as a dining room."

Multi-functional furniture is ideal for condos, she says.

"Multi-functional pieces make good use of space and you might want to look at a console table that may also

be used as a desk, laptop trays that fit over a sofa arm or coffee tables that can be converted into dining tables," she suggests.

A bed that folds into a wall is an excellent way to accommodate overnight guests without taking up valuable space on a daily basis, Bannet says.

Built-ins that provide storage are must-haves. "You need to think about making use of vertical space and use of the height of the walls rather than floor space. You could put built-in storage around a wall-mounted TV and store bedding above it and board games below it."

In kitchens, bulkheads may have nothing but empty space behind them and may be converted to storage. Or a kitchen wall may be turned into an island or peninsula with a breakfast bar.

Bannet says mirrors are great space enhancers as accent pieces or mounted on entire walls.

Glass, mirrored and lacquered furniture pieces also boost the feeling of space.



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Canadian maple syrup helps to create a crispy wok winner

GAV MARTELL
YummyMummyClub.ca

Rather than using sugar, this dish calls for some Canadian maple syrup for sweetness. The sweetness contrasted with the zip of the red wine vinegar makes this Crispy Maple Beef a morsel by morsel mouth-pleasing wok winner.

1. Mix the beef, baking soda, and 3 tablespoons of water in a medium bowl. Cover, and refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight (the baking soda will tenderize the steak).

2. To make the sauce, mix the syrup, vinegar, soy sauce and cornstarch in a small bowl. Set aside.

3. Heat a wok over high heat. Add enough vegetable oil to come about 1 1/2 inches up the sides of the wok, and heat to 375 degrees F. Meanwhile, add the cornstarch and egg white to



This recipe serves four to six. GAV MARTELL OF YUMMYMUMMYCLUB.CA

the beef, and mix well to coat.

4. Cook the beef one small

batch at a time (about 1/2 cup) so that it does not bring the temperature of the oil too low.

Stir gently until it begins to look crispy, about 1 minute. Using a wire mesh strainer,

Ingredients

- 1 lb stir-fry beef
 - 1 1/2 tsp baking soda
 - 3 tbsp water
 - Vegetable oil
 - 1 cup cornstarch
 - 1 large egg white, lightly beaten
 - 1 tsp sesame oil
 - 3 cups prepared white rice
- ## Sauce
- 4 tbsp maple syrup
 - 4 tbsp red wine vinegar
 - 2 tbsp soy sauce
 - 1 tsp cornstarch

transfer the beef to a colander to drain. Remove any fried bits from the wok.

5. Return the beef to the wok, and fry again until crispy all over, about 2 minutes. Transfer to a strainer to drain. Discard all but 1 tablespoon of oil from the wok.

6. Return the wok to high heat. Add the beef, sauce mixture and sesame oil. Stir-fry until all of the ingredients are well blended, about 30 seconds. Serve immediately over steamed rice.

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Another sweeping success for Mooseheads

QMJHL playoffs. Herd gets set for next round after a dominating 4-0 series win over Gatineau



ANDREW RANKIN
in Gatineau

The Halifax Mooseheads put the Gatineau Olympiques out of their misery.

The Mooseheads rose to the occasion with another gutsy 5-3 victory on Wednesday night, sweeping their second-round opponent 4-0 in front of 3,471 fans at the Robert Guertin Centre.

"It feels great. It feels surreal," said Mooseheads forward Stefan Fournier, who came up huge with a hat trick. "I said it before, in my last year of junior hockey, I couldn't be in a better place to be on such a great team and to enjoy with so many great friends."

As for his post-game celebration, he planned on keeping it simple.

"I'll probably just go out and have dinner with my parents. The win is enough for me."

Gatineau wasn't prepared to go quietly into the night.

Olympiques forwards Mikael Langlois and Jordan Kennedy each tallied in the third period to twice make it a one-goal game.

But thanks to Fournier's three-straight tallies, adding to his playoff-leading 11 goals, the Moose captured what proved to be an insurmountable 4-2 lead just over six minutes into the third period.

Jonathan Drouin scored an empty-netter to ice the win in



The Mooseheads' Stefan Fournier scores one of his three goals during the first period of Game 4 against the Gatineau Olympiques on Wednesday night.
DEVAAN INGRAHAM/FOR METRO

the dying seconds.

Konrad Abeltshauser also tallied for the Herd, while Nathan MacKinnon picked up two assists.

Zach Fucale faced his first real test of the series, turning away 24 shots.

"We've worked so hard all year and to see it pay off for us and (Fournier) feels amazing," Fucale said. "He's a real team guy and he's been rewarded."

As always, Fucale — who surrendered just four goals all series long — was quick to deflect praise to his teammates.

"The guys were working

Up next

The Moose begin Round 3 next Saturday at home.

well defensively and offensively and that just made my job that much easier."

Perhaps no one felt better about the win than Mooseheads second-line forward Darcy Ashley. He openly admits he and his linemates of Matthew Boudreau and Luca Ciampini had a sub-par playoff performance last year.

"It has a lot to do with maturity. We got stronger and we knew what to expect," said Ashley, who's collected nine points in eight playoff games. "We knew it was our responsibility to provide secondary scoring. We've done that. It feels good."



Forward Nathan MacKinnon hugs goaltender Zach Fucale after the game.
DEVAAN INGRAHAM/FOR METRO

Halifax waiting on Remparts, Huskies

The Halifax Mooseheads will be playing either the Quebec Remparts or Rouyn-Noranda Huskies in the QMJHL semifinals.

As it stands, the Huskies are the odds-on favourite.

Marcus Power scored three minutes into the first overtime

as the host Huskies defeated Quebec 5-4 on Wednesday night to take a commanding 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven QMJHL quarter-final.

Game 5 goes Friday night, again in Rouyn-Noranda.

As for the other two quarter-

finals, like the Halifax-Gatineau series, they ended in sweeps.

The Baie-Comeau Drakkar edged the host Victoriaville Tigres 2-1 to take it in four games, while the Blainville-Boisbriand Armada slipped past the Val-d'Or Foreurs 2-1 to

also get the sweep.

In the Drakkar win, Maxime Lamarche potted the game winner midway through the third.

In the Armada win, Tommy Giroux had a goal and assist while Etienne Marcoux finished with 27 saves. **METRO**

Semifinal set

The Baie-Comeau Drakkar and Blainville-Boisbriand Armada will meet in the semifinals, starting next weekend.

4 SPORTS

NHL

Leafs move closer to playoffs in loss

Mats Zuccarello scored the only goal in a shootout as the New York Rangers split a home-and-home series against the Toronto Maple Leafs with a 3-2 victory on Wednesday at Madison Square Garden.

Carl Hagelin and Ryan McDonagh had a goal and an assist each in regulation

for New York (20-6-2), which earned two badly needed points and moved into a three-way tie for sixth in the East alongside the Ottawa Senators and cross-town rivals the New York Islanders.

Phil Kessel scored twice for the second straight game for Toronto (22-13-5), which remained firmly in the fifth seed in the East, five points clear of sixth with eight games remaining.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Leafs goalie James Reimer reacts after a second-period Rangers goal on Wednesday in New York. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Jays no longer idle in Motor City

Blue Jays designated hitter Edwin Encarnacion celebrates with teammate Mark DeRosa after scoring on a double to deep centre field by J.P. Arencibia in the seventh inning of Toronto's 8-6 win over the Tigers on Wednesday in Detroit. LEON HALIP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Miami	62	16	.795	—
x-New York	51	26	.662	10 1/2
x-Indiana	49	29	.628	13
x-Brooklyn	45	32	.584	16 1/2
x-Chicago	42	35	.545	19 1/2
x-Atlanta	43	36	.544	19 1/2
x-Boston	40	37	.519	21 1/2
x-Milwaukee	37	41	.474	25
Philadelphia	31	47	.397	31
Toronto	30	48	.385	32
Washington	29	50	.367	33 1/2
Detroit	27	52	.342	35 1/2
Cleveland	24	54	.308	38
Orlando	20	59	.253	42 1/2
Charlotte	18	60	.231	44

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-San Antonio	57	20	.740	—
x-Oklahoma City	57	21	.731	1/2
x-Denver	53	24	.688	4
x-L.A. Clippers	51	26	.662	6
x-Memphis	53	25	.679	4 1/2
Golden State	45	33	.577	12 1/2
Houston	44	34	.564	13 1/2
L.A. Lakers	41	37	.526	16 1/2
Utah	41	38	.519	17
Dallas	38	39	.494	19
Portland	33	44	.429	24
Minnesota	29	48	.377	28
Sacramento	27	50	.351	30
New Orleans	27	51	.346	30 1/2
Phoenix	23	55	.295	34 1/2

x — clinched playoff berth z — clinched conference

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Atlanta 124 Philadelphia 101
Orlando 113 Milwaukee 103 (OT)
Detroit 111 Cleveland 104
Miami 103 Washington 98
Brooklyn at Boston
Phoenix at Dallas
L.A. Lakers at Portland
New Orleans at Sacramento
San Antonio at Denver
Minnesota at L.A. Clippers

THURSDAY'S GAMES — All Times Eastern

New York at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pt
y-Pittsburgh	40	30	10	0	0	132	98	60
Boston	39	26	9	2	2	113	85	56
Washington	40	21	17	2	0	120	112	44
Montreal	39	25	9	3	2	122	94	55
Toronto	40	22	13	0	5	123	112	49
Ottawa	39	19	14	2	4	96	88	44
NY Islanders	40	20	16	3	1	117	120	44
NY Rangers	40	20	16	0	4	99	96	44
Winnipeg	41	20	19	0	2	102	121	42
New Jersey	40	15	15	3	7	96	111	40
Buffalo	40	16	18	2	4	106	122	38
Philadelphia	39	17	19	1	2	107	122	37
Tampa Bay	39	17	20	0	2	124	116	36
Carolina	39	16	21	1	1	102	126	34
Florida	39	13	20	5	1	96	132	32

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pt
x-Chicago	39	30	5	0	4	129	83	64
Anaheim	40	27	8	2	3	123	99	59
Vancouver	39	22	11	1	5	105	95	50
Los Angeles	40	22	14	1	3	115	101	48
San Jose	39	20	12	3	4	98	98	47
St. Louis	38	22	14	1	1	107	98	46
Minnesota	39	22	15	1	1	103	98	46
Detroit	39	19	15	3	2	99	101	43
Dallas	39	19	17	2	1	109	118	41
Columbus	40	17	16	3	4	95	104	41
Phoenix	39	17	16	2	4	105	106	40
Edmonton	39	16	16	4	3	101	108	39
Nashville	41	15	18	2	6	96	110	38
Calgary	38	14	20	1	3	102	134	32
Colorado	39	12	22	4	1	90	124	29

x — clinched playoff berth y — clinched division

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

NY Rangers 3 Toronto 2 (SO)
Boston 5 New Jersey 4
Phoenix at Edmonton
Vancouver at Calgary
Colorado at Anaheim

THURSDAY'S GAMES — All Times Eastern

Ottawa at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
NY Islanders at Boston, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Washington, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
San Jose at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Florida at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	5	2	.714	—
New York	4	4	.500	1 1/2
Tampa Bay	4	5	.444	2
Baltimore	3	4	.429	2
Toronto	3	5	.375	2 1/2

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	5	3	.625	—
Chicago	4	4	.500	1
Detroit	4	4	.500	1
Minnesota	4	4	.500	1
Cleveland	3	5	.375	2

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	6	2	.750	—
Texas	6	3	.667	1/2
Seattle	4	5	.444	2 1/2
Los Angeles	2	5	.286	3 1/2
Houston	2	6	.250	4

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Toronto 8 Detroit 6
Tampa Bay 2 Texas 0
N.Y. Yankees at Cleveland (ppd.)
Baltimore at Boston
Minnesota at Kansas City
Oakland at L.A. Angels
Houston at Seattle
THURSDAY'S GAMES — All Times Eastern
Toronto (Johnson 0-0) at Detroit (Fister 1-0), 1:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Hughes 0-1) at Cleveland (McAllister 0-1), 7:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Tillman 0-0) at Boston (Aceves 0-0), 7:10 p.m.
Oakland (Griffin 1-0) at L.A. Angels (Vargas 0-0), 10:05 p.m.
Texas (Grimm 0-0) at Seattle (Hernandez 1-1), 10:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

St. Louis 10 Cincinnati 0
Arizona 10 Pittsburgh 2
San Francisco 10 Colorado 0
Atlanta 8 Miami 0
Washington 5 Chicago White Sox 2
N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia
Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs (ppd.)
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego
THURSDAY'S GAMES — All Times Eastern
San Francisco (Vogelsong 0-1) at Chicago
Cubs (Feldman 0-1), 2:20 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Axelrod 0-0) at
Washington (Haren 0-1), 7:05 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Greinke 1-0) at San Diego (Marquis 0-1), 10:10 p.m.

Golf. World No. 1 sloppy on eve of tournament in Augusta

The first tee shot clattered through a pair of pines on the left side of the 13th fairway, finally landing on the wrong side of Rae's Creek. Tiger Woods tried again, and this wasn't any better. Fans peered across the fairway and only heard the ball rifle through some bushes.

"He's hitting another one," a man announced from the gallery.

The third shot with a fair-



Tiger Woods GETTY IMAGES

way metal caused them to retreat until it turned with a slight draw, clipping a pine branch and settling in the second cut of rough.

Woods played nine holes Wednesday morning in his final tuneup for the Masters, and how he played was of little consequence. Even so, that snapshot from the 13th

tee was another reminder of how quickly the best plans can fall apart, even for the No. 1 player on top of his game, especially at Augusta National in Georgia.

When the Masters begins Thursday, Woods is the odds-on favourite to end his five-year drought in the majors, and win a green jacket for the first time since 2005.

Trouble is, Augusta National doesn't play favourites.

"Obviously, Tiger is Tiger," said Scott Piercy, who will play alongside Woods and Luke Donald in the opening two rounds. "He's always going to be that target. He knows it, and that's how he wants it. But there's a lot of people getting closer. And the golfing gods, or whatever you want to call them, have a lot to do with winning. A bounce here, a bounce there. A lip in, a lip out."

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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

You need to clear your mind of trivial thoughts and focus only on what really matters, with your career very much to the fore. The rest of the world can waste time on non-essentials.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

According to the planets, someone is abusing your good nature and you must get tough to make sure they stop. Just because you're a nice guy does not mean you're not allowed to get nasty once in a while.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

There is something you need to take care of that cannot be delegated to other people. You may not enjoy it that much but you know it must be done. Get it over with now and the good times will soon begin.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Yes, someone has betrayed your trust, but is it really such a big deal? Why not just forget about it and move on? If nothing else, others will realize you are not thin-skinned.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

A little bit of effort will go a long way today but don't push too hard. Pace yourself according to your natural limits. Small victories will soon add up to major triumphs.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

If you give up one thing today, you will gain something much more valuable in the long-term. But do you have the willpower to make the change? If you don't make it now, it may never be made.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Try not to take what you hear today the wrong way. What you think is bad news may be nothing of the sort. You could just be creating an interpretation that doesn't exist.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Other people seem unable to grasp even the most simple of instructions today, which is so frustrating. There is no point losing your temper as that will only make matters worse.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Before you agree to new responsibilities, you should ask yourself how they might affect other areas of your life. Cash flow situation isn't everything. Time has value too.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

No matter how tempting a social invitation may be, you must turn it down and do something less demanding. There are times when you like to be alone with your thoughts and this is one of them.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Something you hear while listening in on someone else's conversation will intrigue you and make you want to know more, but you've got to be smart about it. You don't want them to know you're a snooper.

Pisces

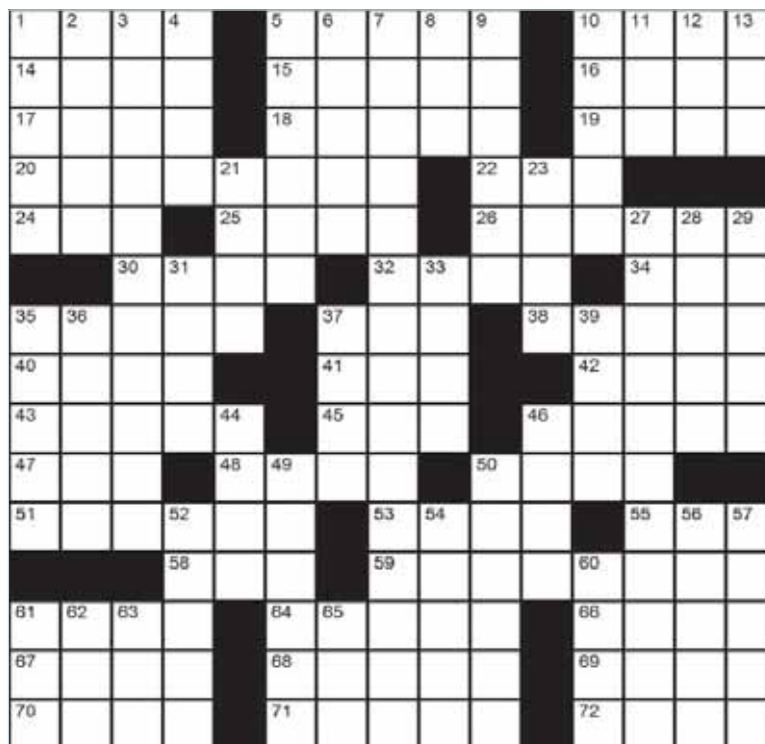
Feb. 20 - March 20

Some people have no shame and you will find yourself having to deal with one such individual today. Don't waste time trying to befriend them. Morally you are on different planets. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

- Cod-like fish
- Ancient insect trapping/preserving stuff
- Halifax-born singer, Holly __
- Belgian imaging corporation
- Glass: French
- Singer Mr. Redding
- Pea: French
- "Should __ the doorbell?"
- __ and potatoes
- Type of painting
- 'Smarter Planet' sloganeer
- Metres' li'l opposites
- __-inflammatory
- BC river
- Not that
- The Ramayana heroine
- 'Gran' add-on (Hiker's treat)
- Hairy, like a lion
- Very smart letters
- Witch assembly
- Culture medium
- Wood sorrel
- Hollywood great Gregory
- Quick movie appearance
- Hi's opposites
- Breath mints brand
- 'Oct' add-on (Music interval)
- Think over
- Month
- Canadian bakery



- since 1882
53. Unwritten
55. Post-op locale
58. "Impressive!"
59. Canadian actress Kate
61. __-Levesque (Boulevard in Montreal)

64. Chiliwack song: " __ "
66. Juniors = Jnrs/Seniors = ?
67. Idea: French
68. Take __ breath
69. "Let __" by The Beatles: 2 wds.
70. Atmosphere

71. Actress, Parker __
72. Way [abbr.]

Down

1. Labrador community, __ Valley-Goose Bay
2. "Have __ time!" (Enjoy!)

3. What The Kardashians mostly have, " __ "
4. " __ of Eden" (1955)
5. Birds
6. Warrant
7. What were Upper Canada and Lower Canada?: 2 wds.

8. 'West' suffix
9. Get-then-give the present
10. This thing: ,
11. 'Capri' suffix
12. __ Fail (Irish coronation stone)
13. The bar on "Cheers", __, 1895
21. Bug killer brand
23. Bric-a-__
27. Parti Quebecois concern
28. Pick a politician
29. Colonel and Lieutenant
31. Not there
33. Varieties of apples
35. Parrot
36. Tequila plant source
37. Opinion __
39. Unlock
44. 1847 Herman Melville story
46. Select/reject
49. Open a package
50. Clunker car
52. Shannon __ (Canadian wife of rocker Gene Simmons)
54. Ms. Zellweger
56. Breads and pasta, e.g.
57. Not yet established
60. Egyptian Myth: Daughter of Geb
61. Coffee mug part
62. Tokyo, formerly
63. Prefix to 'lithic'
65. Ruckus

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Today

6°/-2°
Partly cloudy

Friday

5°/-1°
Partly cloudy

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